THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Recently, an understanding has been reached between India and USA regarding the access levels for India's textiles and clothing products in the US market for 1992. Under this Agreement, cotton sweaters falling under CAT 345 has been shifted from Group-II to Group-I and a quota level of 120,000 dozen pcs for 1992 with an annual growth of 7% has been prescribed. This represents a substantial increase over the actual exports of 1991.

Inflow of Sri Lankan Currency in Tamil Nadu

4821. SHRI R. SRIDHARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the alleged increase in the flow of Sri Lankan currency into Tamil Nadu and utilisation thereof in real estate business there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct investigation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No such inflow and utilisation of Sri Lankan currency in real estate business has come to notice.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Restoration of Seniority in AFHQ Civil Service

4822. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the seniority of staff in different grades of AFHQ civil service has been restored in view of the Supreme Court Judgement of 1989;

(b) if not, the reasons for inordinate delay in implementation of the judgement; and

(c) when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). The Supreme Court vide judgement delivered on 21 Feb. 89 in Civil Appeals Nos. 4133-34/84, filed by Shri DP Sharma & others and Shri S.C. Aggarwal & others, had taken the view that the seniority, in the grade of LDC, of the petitioners should be determined on the basis of their length of service irrespective of their date of confirmation. Accordingly, action to revise the seniority in respect of the 13[illegible] individuals, who were the original petitioners before the Delhi High Court, was immediately initiated. However, before orders relating to consequential benefits arising out of the revision of seniority could be issued, the Supreme Court delivered another judgement on 9 Jan. 91, in Writ Petition No. 493/90 filed by Shri. R.K. Khosla and others, widely enlarging the scope of the 1989 judgement and making it applicable to all the similarly placed employees. This has rendered the earlier review of seniority more or less inoperative.

2. Implementation of the judgement delivered in 1989, as enlarged in 1991, is a massive task involving revision of seniority of thousands of employees over a period of approximately 40 years. While arrangements have been made for expeditious implementation of the Court's orders, considering the magnitude of the

task involved and the non-availability of some of the old records, it is not possible to furnish a precise time frame for implementation.

Development of Coovam River in Madras

4823. SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending with the Union Government for the development of Coovam river in Madras City of inland water transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Building Construction Contracts from Foreign Contries

4824. SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an efficient building construction infrastructure is available in the country;

(b) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to boost export of Civil Construction projects;

(c) whether the Government also propose to help the project exporters in securing building construction contracts from Gulf countries and Latin American Countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Over the years India has acquired considerable experience, expertise and capabilities for executing a wide range of projects in the area of civil construction.

(b) to (d). Government have taken a number of promotional measures to boost project exports to various countries including Gulf and Latin America. These include:-

Market Development Assistance for reimbursement of 50% of cost of preparation and submission of bids. Market Development Assistance for opening and operating overseas offices by consultancy firms. EXIM Bank, in addition to suppliers' credit and buyers' credit, has also been extending lines of credit to various developing countries with a view to encourage export of projects. Exemption of Income Tax upto 50% on earnings from exporters of projects and Consultancy Services under Section 80-HHB and 80-O of Income Tax Act respectively. Concessional Import Duty on import of project used machinery and equipment by the project exporters has also been allowed.

A Special Group has been